

Preliminary Amendment
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REMARKS

The specification and claims in this application were amended during the International Preliminary Examination (IPE), wherein published pages 6 and 9 of the description were replaced by Amended Sheets 6 and 9 and published pages 61-71 of the claims were replaced with Amended Sheets 61-71. A copy of Amended Sheets 6, 9 and 61-71 is attached hereto. It should be noted that page 68 was inadvertently omitted from the PCT pamphlet.

Thus, the patent application that enters the U.S. national phase should include the following pages: published Title page with Abstract (2 pages), published pages pages 1-5 of the description, Amended Sheet page 6 of the description, published pages 7-8 of the description; Amended Sheet page 9 of the description, published pages 10-60 of the description, Amended Sheets 61-71 of the claims; and published drawing sheets 1/6 through 6/6 (with Figures 1-6).

The originally filed claims were replaced with new Claims 1-71 (hereinafter referred to as "IPE Claims"), which were submitted in a response to the PCT Written Opinion. Copies of the Written Opinion and the response thereto are filed concurrently herewith. Also enclosed herewith is a copy of the PCT International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER), which approved the Amended Sheets of the description and IPE Claims 1-71. In addition, for your convenience, we are attaching to this Preliminary Amendment a copy of the IPE Claims 1-71. This Preliminary Amendment amends the IPE claims.

This Preliminary Amendment amends IPE Claims 3-4, 7-8, 10-11, 14-

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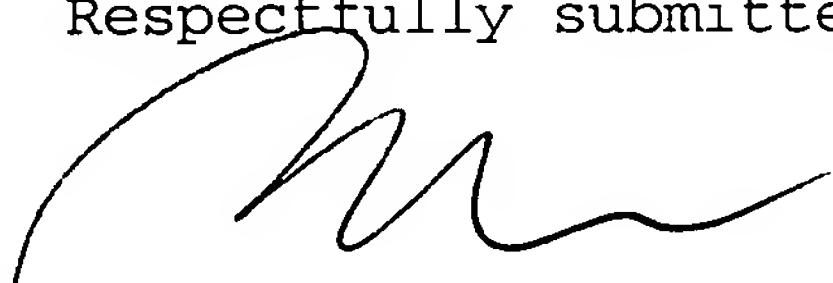
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16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31-33, 36-40, 42-43, 45-46, 49-54, 57-58, 60-61, and 64-69 so that they are no longer multiply dependent. Additionally, claims 70 and 71 have been canceled without prejudice due to the very large excess claim fees they would otherwise attract. The Applicant may elect to amend or reinstate IPE Claims 3-4, 7-8, 10-11, 14-16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31-33, 36-40, 42-43, 45-46, 49-54, 57-58, 60-61, and 64-69 to make them again multiply dependent or to add additional claims to this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than, or narrower than the present claims once examination on the merits has begun.

Amendment of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: copy of IPER with Amended Sheets 6, 9 and 61-71